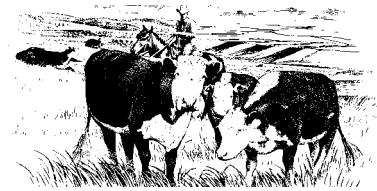


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U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 4 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ head capacity feedlots totaled 11.3 million head on December 1, 2003. The inventory was 4 percent above December 1, 2002, but 5 percent below December 1, 2001. Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.93 million, 3 percent below 2002, but 1 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.83 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 680 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 578 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 379 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 289 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.54 million, 11 percent below 2002 and 15 percent below 2001. Other disappearance totaled 97.0 thousand during November, 8 percent above 2002 and 21 percent above 2001.

CATTLE ON FEED IN CALIFORNIA

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 500 thousand head on December 1, 2003, 1 percent above last month, but the same as December 2002. During November, placements of 62.0 thousand head were 5 percent below the previous year. Marketings of 52.0 thousand head were 4 percent above November of 2002. Other disappearance totaled 5.00 thousand head.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS IN SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES

State	Number On Feed November 1 <u>1/</u>			Placed During November		Marketed During November	
	2002	2003	2003/2002	2002	2003	2002	2003
	Thousand Head						
Arizona	290	278	96	32	26	24	19
California	490	495	101	65	62	50	52
Colorado	1,060	1,050	99	190	185	170	165
Idaho	295	295	100	60	64	53	47
Iowa	335	350	104	80	77	63	56
Kansas	2,300	2,430	106	420	425	395	350
Nebraska	2,110	2,140	101	410	410	330	260
New Mexico	117	118	101	18	22	11	17
Oklahoma	340	350	103	55	56	53	51
South Dakota	170	177	104	56	54	30	30
Texas	2,730	2,840	104	470	440	475	410
Washington	185	195	105	40	46	29	35
Other States	320	320	100	81	59	48	45
UNITED STATES	10,742	11,038	103	1,977	1,926	1,731	1,537
State	Other Disappearance During November <u>2/</u>		Number On Feed December 1 <u>1/</u>		2003/2002		
	2002	2003	2002	2003			
	Thousand Head					Percent	
Arizona	3	1	295	284	96		
California	5	5	500	500	100		
Colorado	10	10	1,070	1,060	99		
Idaho	2	2	300	310	103		
Iowa	2	1	350	370	106		
Kansas	25	25	2,300	2,480	108		
Nebraska	10	10	2,180	2,280	105		
New Mexico	1	2	123	121	98		
Oklahoma	2	5	340	350	103		
South Dakota	1	1	195	200	103		
Texas	25	30	2,700	2,840	105		
Washington	1	1	195	205	105		
Other States	3	4	350	330	94		
UNITED STATES	90	97	10,898	11,330	104		

^{1/} Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fed for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates, and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

^{2/} Includes death losses, movement from feedlot to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during November 2003 totaled 109.9 million pounds (dressed weight), 14 percent below last month, but slightly above November 2002. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In November 2003, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,283 pounds; calves 199 pounds; and hogs 242 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 8 percent from November 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 236.3 thousand head, 13 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 6 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2003 commercial red meat production was 42.7 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 1 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.

U.S. COMMERCIAL BEEF PRODUCTION DOWN 18 PERCENT FROM LAST NOVEMBER

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.53 billion pounds in November, down 10 percent from the 3.91 billion pounds produced in November 2002.

November 2002 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and five Saturdays. November 2003 contained 20 weekdays (including two holidays) and five Saturdays.

Beef production, at 1.78 billion pounds, was 18 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.43 million head, down 15 percent from November 2002. The average live weight, at 1,236 pounds, was down 24 pounds from the previous year.

Veal production totaled 15.2 million pounds, 10 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 78.0 thousand head, down 14 percent from November 2002. The average live weight was 321 pounds, 12 pounds above last year.

Pork production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.58 million head, 1 percent below November 2002. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, NOVEMBER 2002-03 a/

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
CATTLE						
California	108.9	103.5	138,794	132,824	1,275	1,283
U.S. Total	2,861.1	2,425.8	3,606,284	2,998,990	1,260	1,236
CALVES						
California	10.0	8.6	1,405	1,723	141	199
U.S. Total	90.8	78.0	28,026	25,084	309	321
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S. Total	271.1	236.3	35,777	32,546	132	138
HOGS						
California	186.8	194.6	44,130	47,105	236	242
U.S. Total	8,654.2	8,581.9	2,315,147	2,311,656	268	269
RED MEAT	November 2002	October 2003 b/	November 2003	Nov. 03 Nov. 02	Nov. 03 Oct. 03	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	109.5	127.4	109.9	100	86	
U.S. Total	3,907.1	4,154.4	3,526.0	90	85	

a/ Farm slaughter excluded.

b/ Revised U.S. total.

FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER BY REGIONS AND UNITED STATES, JANUARY - NOVEMBER 2003 *

Standard Federal Regions 1/	Cattle							Calves Total
	Total 2/	Steers	Heifers	All Cows	Dairy Cows	Other Cows	Bulls & Stags	
	1,000 Head							
1	16.6	3.4	2.1	9.1	8.7	0.4	2.0	24.6
2	72.4	17.8	3.5	45.6	35.8	9.7	5.6	217.4
3	1,003.9	417.8	79.0	472.1	354.7	117.5	35.0	171.2
4	777.1	15.6	3.3	643.2	231.0	412.1	115.0	21.1
5	3,568.5	1,431.6	494.0	1,537.9	995.5	542.5	105.0	299.4
6	6,024.0	3,054.7	2,064.0	773.1	125.2	647.9	132.2	18.4
7	14,579.0	7,964.8	5,797.7	743.7	18.7	725.0	72.9	0.4
8	2,992.2	1,481.6	1,328.3	156.4	45.3	111.1	25.9	0.1
9	1,773.8	859.8	98.2	773.2	666.8	106.4	42.7	118.6
10	1,437.8	677.7	408.7	310.5	131.2	179.3	41.0	9.9
U.S. 2/	32,245.3	15,924.8	10,278.6	5,464.8	2,612.9	2,851.9	577.2	881.0
	Hogs				Sheep			
	Total 2/	Barrows & Gilts	Sows	Stags & Boars	Total 2/	Mature Sheep	Lambs & Yearlings	
	1,000 Head							
1	18.7	18.4	0.2	0.1	20.0	5.0	15.0	
2	118.9	115.5	2.5	0.8	122.7	17.2	105.5	
3	5,941.4	5,922.9	17.7	0.8	105.3	8.9	96.4	
4	14,669.1	13,777.2	875.0	16.9	26.4	10.3	16.1	
5	23,339.0	22,164.1	1,141.5	33.4	355.6	42.9	312.8	
6	4,647.2	4,397.1	237.8	12.3	329.8	17.8	312.0	
7	34,792.1	34,109.6	514.2	168.3	383.0	0.4	382.6	
8	4,281.2	4,176.9	104.1	0.2	705.4	20.1	685.2	
9	2,154.5	2,153.0	1.3	0.3	491.8	5.3	486.5	
10	336.5	334.5	1.8	0.3	19.4	3.8	15.6	
U.S. 2/	90,298.7	87,169.2	2,896.1	233.4	2,559.2	131.7	2,427.6	

* Accumulated totals based on unrounded data.

1/ States included in regions are as follows: 1--CT, ME, NH, VT, MA & RI; 2--NY & NJ; 3--DE-MD, PA, WV & VA; 4--AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC & TN; 5--IL, IN, MI, MN, OH & WI; 6--AR, LA, NM, OK & TX; 7--IA, KS, MO & NE; 8--CO, MT, ND, SD, UT & WY; 9--AZ, CA, HI & NV; 10--AK, ID, OR & WA.

2/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND U.S. ^{1/}

Commodity	Unit	California			United States		
		November 2002	October 2003	Nov. 15, 2003	November 2002	October 2003	Nov. 15, 2003
		Dollars					
Hay, All Baled ^{2/}	Ton	95.00	88.00	90.00	93.20	84.40	80.70
Hay, Alfalfa Baled ^{2/}	Ton	101.00	94.00	98.00	101.00	88.80	88.00
Hogs ^{2/ 3/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	27.80	36.80	34.80
Cows ^{2/}	Cwt.	32.50	42.00	43.50	33.00	44.90	46.70
Steers and Heifers ^{2/}	Cwt.	71.00	96.00	97.50	71.90	97.80	99.70
Calves ^{2/}	Cwt.	88.00	100.00	100.00	91.90	113.00	112.00
Sheep ^{2/}	Cwt.	34.00	36.00	---	31.30	34.80	---
Lambs ^{2/}	Cwt.	77.00	89.00	---	84.00	96.90	---
Milk Cows ^{4/}	Head	---	1,300.00	---	---	1,370.00	---
Milk, All Wholesale ^{2/}	Cwt.	10.53	13.41	13.10	11.90	15.00	14.90

^{1/} The estimated prices in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers and are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

^{2/} Previous month revised to monthly average.

^{3/} Prices include barrows, gilts, and sows.

^{4/} Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July and October.



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